

POILANEIC ACID, A CEMBRANOID DITERPENE FROM *CROTON POILANEI*

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Key Word Index—*Croton poilanei*; Euphorbiaceae; cembranoid diterpene; poilaneic acid.

Abstract—Poilaneic acid, a cembranoid diterpene from *Croton poilanei*, has been characterized as (1*R**,2*E*,4*Z*,7*E*,11*Z*)-12-carboxyl-1-isopropyl-4,8-dimethylcyclotetradecatetraene.

INTRODUCTION

In the course of a chemotaxonomic study of the genus *Croton*, which grows wild in Thailand [1, 2], we isolated poilaneic acid (**1a**), a cembranoid diterpene, from *Croton poilanei* Gagnep. [3]. Although cembranoid diterpenes have been isolated from a variety of terrestrial as well as marine sources [4–16], there have been no reports of their isolation from *Croton* sp. We now report the characterization of poilaneic acid (**1a**).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Silica gel chromatography of *n*-hexane-soluble acidic material from *C. poilanei* gave poilaneic acid (**1a**), mp 94–95°, $[\alpha]_D^{25} -136.8^\circ$ (CHCl₃). High resolution MS gave a MW consistent with the formula C₂₀H₃₀O₂ (calc: 302.2245, found: 302.2241). Its ¹H NMR spectrum indicated that **1a** possessed an isopropyl group (δ 0.80 and 0.84), two olefinic methyl groups (δ 1.66 and 1.82), and five olefinic protons (δ 5.0–6.2). Moreover, its ¹³C NMR spectrum showed the presence of eleven sp³ carbons (4 quartets, 5 triplets and 2 doublets), eight sp² carbons (5 doublets and 3 singlets) and a carboxyl carbon. Its UV spectrum, $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 223 (4.1), 245 (sh), 255 (sh), showed the presence of a conjugated diene and an α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid (ν_{\max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 1680). Catalytic hydrogenation of the methyl ester of **1a** (**1b**) over Pt gave a mixture of epimeric octahydro derivatives (**2**), which confirmed that **1a** contained four double bonds and had a cembranoid skeleton.

To determine the gross structure, **1b** was reduced with LiAlH₄ to give the alcohol **3**, mp 92–94°, $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 238 (sh), 244 (4.4), 253 (sh), and then **3** was converted to (–)-cembrene (**4**), mp 58–58.3°, $[\alpha]_D^{25} -232^\circ$ (CHCl₃), on treatment of the corresponding mesylate with LiAlH₄. The (–)-cembrene obtained [16] was identical with (+)-cembrene [17–19] in all physicochemical data except for the sign of optical rotation. This established that poilaneic acid (**1a**) had the cembrene skeleton with *R*-chirality at C-1 and that one of three olefinic methyl groups in (–)-cembrene was biogenetically oxidized to a carboxyl group.

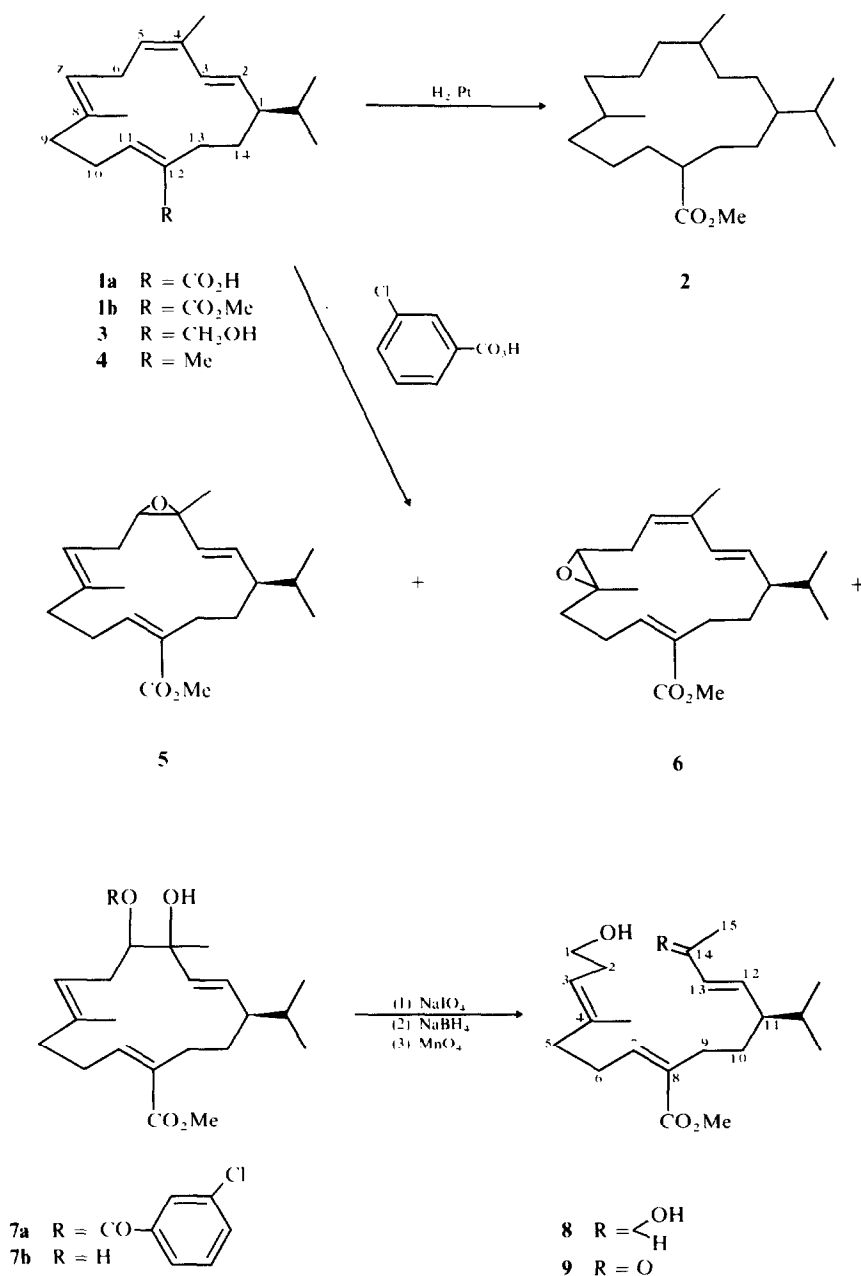
On treatment with *m*-chloroperbenzoic acid in CH₂Cl₂ at –20°, **1b** initially gave the labile epoxide **5**, as a major product, together with a small amount of **6**. The epoxide **5** was readily cleaved to the glycol mono *m*-chlorobenzoate

(**7a**) on standing at ambient temperature, and during separation on silica gel, the ester **7a** was easily hydrolysed to the glycol **7b** as the final product. The UV spectrum of **7b**, $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 223 (4.1), showed the absence of the conjugated diene chromophore and the high-field shift of the methyl signal (δ 1.36) in the ¹H NMR spectrum indicated that the methyl group was situated on the conjugated diene and that the carboxyl group was on the other double bond.

Oxidative cleavage of **7b** with NaIO₄ in aqueous dioxane followed by NaBH₄ reduction gave the diol **8**, which was refluxed over MnO₂ in CHCl₃ to yield the α,β -unsaturated ketone **9**, UV $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 222 (4.1), IR ν_{\max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 3430, 1715, 1675. In the ¹H NMR spectrum of **9**, irradiation of the triplet at δ 5.14 (H-3) sharpened the broad singlet at δ 1.64 (Me-4) and collapsed the signal at δ 2.29 (H-2) to a triplet. Moreover, on irradiation of the signal (H-2), the triplet at δ 3.59 (H-1) collapsed to a singlet. These results agreed with the structure **9**, indicating that the carboxyl group was situated at C-12 in **1a**. Consequently, poilaneic acid was identified as (1*R**,2*E*,4*Z*,7*E*,11*Z*)-12-carboxyl-1-iso-propyl-4,8-dimethylcyclotetradecatetraene.

EXPERIMENTAL

Extraction and isolation. Powdered leaves (3.3 kg) of *C. poilanei* were extracted with MeOH under reflux. After evapn of the solvent, the residue was dissolved in 80% aq. MeOH and extracted with *n*-hexane. The *n*-hexane extract was concd to a yellow-green oil (144 g). A soln of the extract (100 g) in *n*-hexane (400 ml) was swirled with 5% NaOH (400 ml) at ambient temp. The aq. layer was acidified with conc. HCl with cooling at 0°, and extracted with *n*-hexane. After usual work-up, the residue (70 g) was subjected to Si gel column chromatography. Elution with C₆H₆ gave colourless crystals, which were recrystallized from aq. MeOH to yield poilaneic acid (**37** g), mp 94–95°, $[\alpha]_D^{25} -136.8^\circ$ (CHCl₃; *c* 0.33). IR ν_{\max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 3000, 1680, 1620; UV $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 223 (4.1), 245 (sh), 255 (sh); ¹H NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.80 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 0.83 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 1.66 (3 H, *t*, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 1.82 (3 H, *t*, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 1.5–2.5 (11 H, *m*), 3.05 (1 H, *ddd*, *J* = 6.0, 9.5, 15.5 Hz), 5.21 (1 H, *dd*, *J* = 9.5, 15.5 Hz), 5.56 (1 H, *dd*, *J* = 6.0, 9.5 Hz), 6.04 (1 H, *dd*, *J* = 4.5, 6.5 Hz), 6.05 (1 H, *d*, *J* = 15.5 Hz); ¹³C NMR (25.2 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 14.51 (*q*), 19.38 (*q*), 19.98 (*q*), 20.98 (*q*), 25.92 (*t*), 26.27 (*t*), 29.52 (*t*), 32.15 (*d*), 32.78 (*t*), 38.58 (*t*), 47.96 (*d*), 125.73 (*d*), 128.04 (*d*), 128.88 (*s*), 130.54 (*d*), 131.00 (*s*), 131.30 (*d*), 135.17 (*s*), 147.81 (*d*), 173.69 (*s*). MS (probe



75 eV m/z (rel. int.): 302 (27), 259 (17), 213 (17), 133 (50), 121 (53), 119 (53), 107 (70), 105 (70), 93 (100), 91 (80), 81 (60), 79 (60). (Found: C, 79.43; H, 10.00. C₂₀H₃₀O₂ requires: C, 79.47; H, 9.93%).

Esterification of 1a. A soln of **1a** (4.5 g) and MeI (2 ml) in dry DMF (20 ml) was stirred in the presence of K₂CO₃ (1.8 g) at ambient temp. overnight. After usual work-up, the residue was distilled to give **1b** (4.4 g), bp 160–170° (bath temp.)/0.2 mm Hg. IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{liquid}}$ cm⁻¹: 1715, 1615, 1610, 1430, 1380, 1245, 1200; ¹H NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.80 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 0.83 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 1.66 (3 H, *s* (*br*), 1.80 (3 H, *s* (*br*), 1.5–2.6 (11 H, *m*), 3.02 (1 H, *m*), 3.72 (3 H, *s*), 5.10 (1 H, *dd*, *J* = 9.0, 15.5 Hz), 5.16 (1 H, *dd*, *J* = 3.5, 11.0 Hz), 5.52 (1 H, *m*), 5.81 (1 H, *m*), 6.07 (1 H, *d*, *J* = 15.5 Hz); MS (probe), 75 eV, m/z (rel. int.): 316 (22), 273 (10),

213 (26), 133 (50), 121 (61), 119 (61), 107 (74), 105 (74), 93 (100), 91 (82), 81 (61), 79 (61). (Found: C, 79.75; H, 10.13. C₂₁H₃₂O₂ requires: C, 79.61; H, 10.20%).

Catalytic hydrogenation of 1b. A soln of **1b** (0.150 g) in MeOH (15 ml) was shaken over Pt (0.015 g) under H₂. After filtration, the residue was distilled to give **2** (0.140 g), bp 130° (bath temp.)/0.15 mm Hg. IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{liquid}}$ cm⁻¹: 1740, 1465, 1435, 1380, 1265, 1190, 1160; MS (probe), 75 eV, m/z (rel. int.): 324 (100), 291 (25). (Found: C, 77.89; H, 12.29. C₂₁H₄₀O₂ requires: C, 77.78; H, 12.35%).

Conversion of 1b to (–)-cembrene. (a) A soln of **1b** (1.3 g) in dry Et₂O (10 ml) was added to a soln of LiAlH₄ (0.9 g) in dry Et₂O (20 ml) at 0°, and then stirred at ambient temp. for 2 hr. After usual work-up, the residue was subjected to Si gel

chromatography. Elution with C_6H_6 -EtOAc (20:1) gave colourless crystals, which were recrystallized from *n*-hexane to yield **3** (0.84 g), mp 92–94°. IR $\nu_{\max}^{\text{nujol}}$ cm^{-1} : 3250, 1650, 1600; 1H NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 0.80 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 0.85 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 1.58 (3 H, *t*, *J* = 1.4 Hz), 1.78 (3 H, *t*, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 1.6–2.7 (11 H, *m*), 3.00 (1 H, *m*), 4.00 (1 H, *d*, *J* = 12.0 Hz), 4.23 (1 H, *d*, *J* = 12.0 Hz), 5.0–5.8 (4 H, *m*), 6.06 (1 H, *d*, *J* = 15.5 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (25.2 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 14.39 (*q*), 19.76 (*q*), 19.88 (*q*), 20.83 (*q*), 22.78 (*t*), 26.20 (*t*), 27.96 (*t*), 32.40 (*t*), 32.79 (*d*), 38.68 (*t*), 48.50 (*d*), 59.15 (*t*), 125.35 (*d*), 127.00 (*d*), 129.36 (*d*), 130.24 (*d*), 130.55 (*s*), 130.68 (*d*), 134.89 (*s*), 135.86 (*s*); UV $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 238 (sh), 244 (4.4), 253 (sh); MS (probe), 75 eV, *m/z* (rel. int.): 288 (21), 270 (14), 245 (14), 227 (26), 133 (57), 131 (36), 121 (55), 119 (69), 93 (100), 91 (90), 81 (81), 79 (79). (Found: C, 83.33; H, 11.11. $C_{20}H_{32}O$ requires: C, 83.45; H, 11.07 %).

(b) A mixture of **3** (0.396 g), $MeSO_2Cl$ (0.4 ml), and pyridine (0.2 ml) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (0.4 ml) was stirred at ambient temp. overnight. After usual work-up, the residue (0.5 g) in dry Et_2O (10 ml) was added to a soln of $LiAlH_4$ (0.050 g) in dry Et_2O (10 ml) with cooling at 0° and stirred at ambient temp. for 5 hr. After usual work-up, the *n*-hexane extract (0.2 g) was purified by prep. TLC (*n*-hexane) to yield (–)-cembrene (0.100 g), which was recrystallized from EtOH, mp 58–58.3°, $[\alpha]_D^{25} -232^\circ$ ($CHCl_3$; *c* 0.41). IR $\nu_{\max}^{CS_2}$ cm^{-1} : 2930, 1660, 1640, 1385, 1160, 965, 942, 915, 840, 790; 1H NMR (100 MHz, CCl_4): δ 0.80 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 0.85 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 1.48 (3 H, *s* (*br*)), 1.57 (3 H, *s* (*br*)), 1.75 (3 H, *s* (*br*)), 1.6–2.5 (11 H, *m*), 3.00 (1 H, *m*), 4.7–5.7 (4 H, *m*), 6.04 (1 H, *d*, *J* = 15.3 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (25.2 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 14.34 (2*q*), 19.96 (2*q*), 20.88 (*q*), 23.60 (*t*), 26.35 (*t*), 27.92 (*t*), 32.96 (*d*), 36.67 (*t*), 39.04 (*t*), 48.39 (*d*), 125.75 (*d*), 126.12 (*d*), 126.92 (*d*), 130.83 (*d*), 131.24 (*d*), 131.50 (*s*), 132.81 (*s*), 135.50 (*s*); UV $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 245 (4.1); MS (probe), 75 eV, *m/z* (rel. int.): 272 (27), 229 (43), 161 (30), 147 (27), 133 (37), 121 (54), 119 (67), 107 (72), 105 (72), 95 (36), 93 (100), 91 (61), 81 (85), 79 (47), 77 (32), 69 (40), 67 (34), 55 (54), 41 (67). (Found: C, 88.52; H, 11.89. $C_{20}H_{32}$ requires: C, 88.24; H, 11.76 %).

Epoxidation of 1b. To a soln of **1b** (3.0 g) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (30 ml) was added 85 % *m*-chloroperbenzoic acid (2.8 g) in small portions at –20°. After the addition was complete, the reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temp. for 2 hr and then treated with satd $NaHCO_3$. The CH_2Cl_2 layer, after usual work-up, was subjected to Si gel chromatography. Fraction 1, eluted with C_6H_6 , contained **5** (0.270 g), colourless oil. Fraction 2, eluted with C_6H_6 -EtOAc (20:1) contained **6** (0.142 g), which was recrystallized from cold *n*-hexane. Fraction 3, eluted with C_6H_6 -EtOAc (5:1), contained **7a** (0.150 g), colourless oil. Fraction 4, eluted with C_6H_6 -EtOAc (1:1), contained **7b** (0.850 g), colourless oil. **5**: 1H NMR (60 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 1.11, 1.22 (3 H, *s*), 1.67 (3 H, *s*), 3.70 (3 H, *s*); UV $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 220 (4.2). (Found: C, 75.67; H, 12.85. $C_{21}H_{32}O_3$ requires: C, 75.90; H, 12.70 %). **6**: mp 83.5–84°; IR $\nu_{\max}^{\text{nujol}}$ cm^{-1} : 1715, 1645, 1460, 1200; UV $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 225 (sh), 237 (4.4), 240 (sh), 250 (sh); 1H NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 0.80 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 0.83 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 1.37 (3 H, *s*), 1.84 (3 H, *s* (*br*)), 1.3–2.6 (12 H, *m*), 2.70 (1 H, *m*), 2.73 (1 H, *d* (*br*), *J* = 7.0 Hz), 3.74 (3 H, *s*), 5.31 (1 H, *dd*, *J* = 10.0, 15.5 Hz), 5.5–5.8 (2 H, *m*), 6.10 (1 H, *d*, *J* = 15.5 Hz); MS (probe), 75 eV, *m/z* (rel. int.): 332 (55), 257 (27), 149 (83), 135 (37), 120 (49), 107 (95), 105 (53), 93 (100), 91 (65), 81 (63), 79 (80). (Found: C, 75.94; H, 12.71. $C_{21}H_{32}O_3$ requires: C, 75.90; H, 12.70 %). **7a**: IR $\nu_{\max}^{\text{liquid}}$ cm^{-1} : 3500, 1715, 1640, 1440, 1385, 1250, 1210; 1H NMR (60 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 0.80 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 0.83 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 1.67 (3 H, *s*), 1.75 (3 H, *s*), 1.2–2.8 (12 H, *m*), 3.75 (3 H, *s*), 4.56 (1 H, *s* (*br*)), 5.4–6.2 (4 H, *m*), 7.4–7.6 (2 H, *m*), 7.9–8.2 (2 H, *m*). (Found: C, 68.51; H, 7.70; Cl, 7.14. $C_{28}H_{33}ClO_3$ requires: C, 68.77; H, 7.57; Cl, 7.29 %). **7b**: IR $\nu_{\max}^{\text{liquid}}$ cm^{-1} : 3430, 1720, 1640, 1440, 1390, 1210; 1H NMR

(100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 0.80 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 0.83 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 1.36 (3 H, *s*), 1.65 (3 H, *s*), 1.6–2.6 (12 H, *m*), 3.50 (1 H, *dd*, *J* = 2.0, 7.5 Hz), 3.73 (3 H, *s*), 5.29 (1 H, *t* (*br*), *J* = 7.5 Hz), 5.44 (1 H, *dd*, *J* = 8.0, 15.5 Hz), 5.66 (1 H, *d*, *J* = 15.5 Hz), 5.76 (1 H, *dd*, *J* = 6.0, 7.0 Hz); MS (probe), 75 eV, *m/z* (rel. int.): 350 (8), 332 (12), 276 (48), 257 (44), 177 (98), 169 (100), 95 (84), 93 (76). (Found: C, 71.82; H, 9.60. $C_{21}H_{34}O_4$ requires: C, 72.00; H, 9.71 %).

Oxidative cleavage of 7b. To a soln of **7b** (0.300 g) in dioxane (4 ml) was added an aq. soln of $NaIO_4$ (0.400 g) and the mixture was stirred at ambient temp. for 1 hr. The reaction mixture was poured into H_2O and extracted with Et_2O . After usual work-up, the Et_2O extract was added to a soln of $NaBH_4$ (0.050 g) in EtOH (5 ml). After stirring at ambient temp. for 30 min and usual work-up, the Et_2O extract was subjected to Si gel chromatography. Elution with C_6H_6 -EtOAc (1:1) gave **8** (0.161 g), colourless oil. IR $\nu_{\max}^{\text{liquid}}$ cm^{-1} : 3520, 1715, 1630, 1440, 1380, 1200, 1155; 1H NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 0.81 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 0.86 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 1.27 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.64 (3 H, *s* (*br*)), 1.3–2.7 (12 H, *m*), 3.60 (2 H, *t*, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 3.72 (3 H, *s*), 4.27 (1 H, *m*), 5.1–5.8 (4 H, *m*); MS (probe), 75 eV, *m/z* (rel. int.): 352 (2), 334 (2), 300 (33), 289 (26), 257 (50), 229 (67), 161 (48), 121 (56), 107 (67), 95 (74), 81 (100). (Found: C, 71.51; H, 10.29. $C_{21}H_{36}O_4$ requires: C, 71.59; H, 10.23 %).

Oxidation of 8 with MnO_2 . A mixture of **8** (0.290 g) and MnO_2 (3.0 g) was refluxed in $CHCl_3$ (15 ml) for 4 hr. After usual work-up, the residue was subjected to Si gel chromatography. Elution with C_6H_6 -EtOAc (5:1) gave **9** (0.149 g), colourless oil. IR $\nu_{\max}^{\text{liquid}}$ cm^{-1} : 3430, 1715, 1675, 1610; UV $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 222 (4.1); 1H NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 0.85 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 0.89 (3 H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 1.64 (3 H, *s* (*br*)), 2.26 (3 H, *s*), 1.3–2.2 (8 H, *m*), 2.29 (2 H, *td*, *J* = 6.0, 7.0 Hz), 2.53 (2 H, *td*, *J* = 7.0, 7.5 Hz), 3.61 (2 H, *t*, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 3.73 (3 H, *s*), 5.14 (1 H, *t*, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 5.81 (1 H, *t*, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 6.02 (1 H, *d*, *J* = 16.0 Hz), 6.57 (1 H, *dd*, *J* = 9.2, 16.0 Hz); MS (probe), 75 eV, *m/z* (rel. int.): 350 (13), 318 (33), 299 (49), 287 (40), 225 (28), 168 (80), 106 (80), 84 (100), 80 (93). (Found: C, 72.14; H, 9.75. $C_{21}H_{34}O_4$ requires: C, 72.00; H, 9.71 %).

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